

The Battalion
SPORTS

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Sports Editor

Richard Tijerina

845-2688

Ags host SFA with eye on 'Horns

Tuesday twinbill a stepping stone for big Austin trip

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

No. 14 Texas A&M hosts Stephen F. Austin in a Tuesday night doubleheader that starts at 5:30, but it'll have its eyes down the road a bit—to a little place in Austin about 120 miles west of Olsen Field. Disch-Falk Field. Home of the Texas Longhorns.

This weekend's series against the South-west Conference-leading Longhorns will be

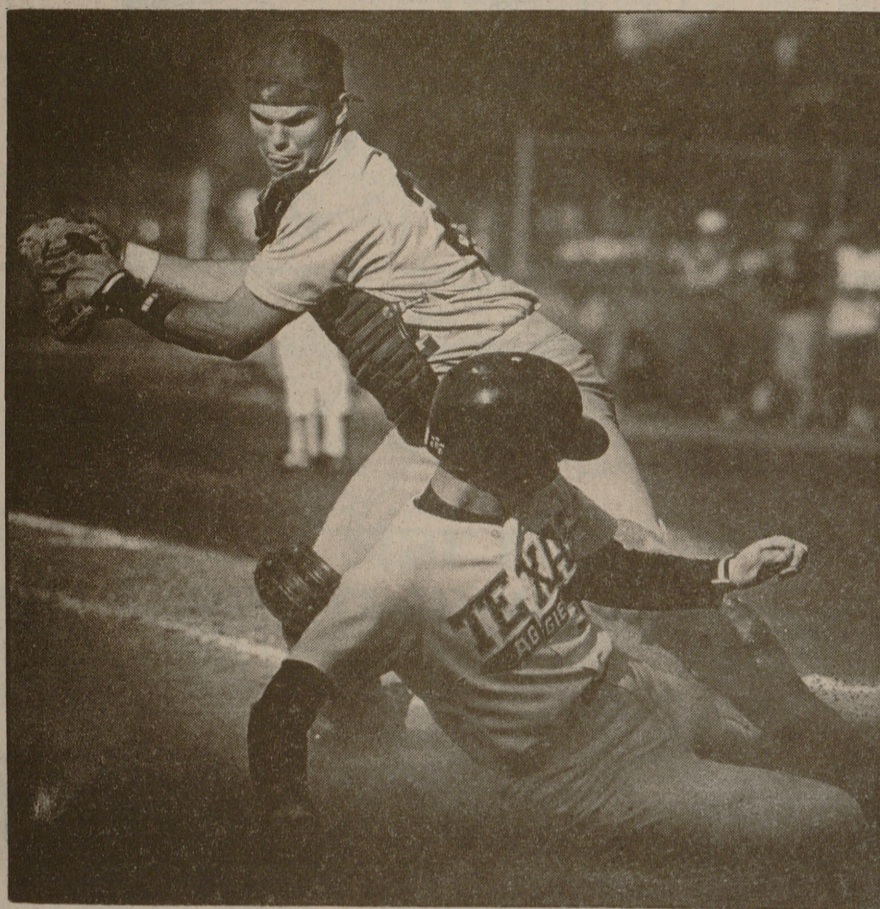


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

A&M's Jason Marshall scores in Saturday's doubleheader against Rice.

play) seriously Tuesday. But this is the same Lumberjack team that outhit No. 1 Wichita State earlier in the year—even though they ended up losing the game, 6-3. The Aggies will start Bo Seberz (2-1, 3.04

earned run average) and Brent Gilbert (3-3, 6.08 ERA) against the Lumberjacks, but Coach Mark Johnson is planning on using several pitchers throughout the doubleheader.

The Aggies probably will have their top three pitchers on the mound for them in this weekend's Texas series. Rich Robertson, Ronnie Allen and Pat Sweet have pitched for A&M in its previous two SWC series.

The last time Johnson had a game plan of wanting to see a lot of pitchers, the Aggies dominated. In last Tuesday's win over Sam Houston State, A&M used four pitchers—just like Johnson wanted.

The Aggies are coming off a crucial three-game sweep of Rice last weekend. After dropping two of three games to Baylor two weeks ago, A&M needed a sweep to stay in the thick of the conference race.

A&M stands in third place behind Texas and Arkansas. The Aggies play both the Longhorns and Razorbacks on the road this season.

Last weekend's sweep of Rice was an impressive offensive showing by the Aggies. A&M scored 33 runs in the series, on their way to outscoring the Owls 33-12.

Third baseman Travis Williams led the way. He went 7-for-13 (.538) against the Owls. The sophomore from Austin leads the team with a .315 average on the year, .419 in SWC play.

"I hit some hard the first game, but they didn't drop," said Williams, who started the series going 0-4. "I was seeing the ball well and I was confident."

"It didn't matter where they threw the ball. I knew I would hit it."

Leadoff hitter Tim Holt went 6-for-14 (.429) and second baseman Trey Witte was 4-for-9 (.444) against the Owls.

Designated hitter David Rollen and catcher/first baseman Blake Pyle have averages above .300 for the season.

The second game of the SFA doubleheader will be broadcast by KTAM (1240 AM), and it will also be Little League Night. All youngsters will be admitted free, and a clinic will be held between games with the Aggies providing instruction and demonstrations.

Gates will open at 4 p.m.

Mavs' Tarpley passes drug test with flying colors

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks star forward Roy Tarpley has tested negative for cocaine and alcohol, clearing the way for Tarpley to return to the team after a suspension that started after he missed practice and failed to notify the team Friday.

The test results were released Monday afternoon by Dr. Dave Lewis, medical director of the league-sanctioned ASAP Family Treatment Program.

"I feel real bad about this," Tarpley said in a statement issued by the Mavericks. "I need to work on being a responsible person. I should have been at practice. I should have called. I paid a price and now I'm glad it's over. I said I didn't take drugs and I didn't. I'm excited about getting back with the team."

Tarpley, who is expected to play in Tuesday night's game against the Los Angeles Clippers, asked that the results of the drug test be released, Lewis said.

"Roy had given us his permission to report that the levels of alcohol and cocaine in his urine were zero."

Tarpley, who has twice been suspended in connection with drug problems, told team officials he overslept Friday and was too embarrassed to call the team. An assistant coach tracked him down at his house after a 6-hour search.

He submitted to the test Friday night and told Coach Richie Adubato and General Manager Norm Sonju his test would be clean of banned substances.

"He was extremely disappointed in what he did, frustrated at his lack of judgement ... and said right away, 'I want to be tested right now,'" Sonju said of Tarpley's reaction Friday evening.

Sonju said in a statement Monday that Tarpley "paid a heavy price. Roy said this was not drug-related and the test proved that he was right."

SWC Standings

Team	SWC Record
Texas (35-10)	8-0
Arkansas (32-6)	6-1
Texas A&M (35-9)	7-2
Houston (31-14)	7-5
Rice (25-18)	5-6
Baylor (25-16)	3-9
Texas Tech (24-18)	2-7
TCU (22-23)	1-8

Sunday's Results
Texas 7-15, Texas Tech 2-5; Texas A&M 10, Rice 3; Arkansas 5, Centenary 5; SW Missouri St. 20, TCU 2

the most important the Aggies have faced this year. Monday's Collegiate Baseball/ESPN poll had the Aggies (35-9, 7-2 in the SWC) at No. 14 and the Longhorns (35-10, 8-0) at No. 6.

Much will be at stake this weekend. Last year, A&M won the series in College Station, and went on to claim a conference co-championship with Arkansas.

It would be too easy for A&M to not take SFA (7-32, 2-7 in Southland Conference

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